

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8-9, 11-18 and 20-21 are pending. The amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure and, thus, no new matter is added by their entry.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication on page 5 of the Action that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1. The present claims are directed to the subject matter deemed allowable in the Office Action. The oligonucleotides are related structurally (i.e., shared double-strands)

-AGGGAAATCCCTTCAAG-
-TCCCTTTA|GGGAAGTTC-

and functionally (i.e., targeted NF- κ B). Thus, the genus of oligonucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1 are related by structure and function.

35 U.S.C. 102 – Novelty

A claim is anticipated only if each and every limitation as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of Calif.*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is claimed. See *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Claims 1, 6, 8-9 and 11-18 were rejected under Section 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Vasseur et al. (WO 94/23062). Applicants traverse because the present amendments moot this rejection. Vasseur does not anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention directed to staple oligonucleotides of a specific sequence.

Claims 1-9 and 11-18 were rejected under Section 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Blumenfeld et al. (WO 92/19731). Applicants traverse because the present amendments moot this rejection. Blumenfeld does not anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention directed to staple oligonucleotides of a specific sequence.

Claims 1-9, 11-18 and 20 were rejected under Section 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Ahn et al. (Gene Therap. 9:1682-1692, 2002). Applicants traverse because the present amendments moot this rejection. Ahn does not anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention directed to staple oligonucleotides of a specific sequence.


Withdrawal of the Section 102 rejections is requested because the cited documents fail to disclose all limitations of the claimed invention.

Conclusion

Having fully responded to the pending Office Action, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit an early Notice to that effect. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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